

CONGRATULATING THE LINCOLN MAGNET SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED A 2011 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lincoln Magnet School in Springfield, Illinois for being named a 2011 National Blue Ribbon award winner in high academic performance. Lincoln Magnet School was only one of 17 public and private schools in the state of Illinois and one of 304 schools nationwide to receive this prestigious honor.

Lincoln Magnet School serves 321 students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade. It incorporates technology in the classroom by providing each student with an individual laptop. The school has previously been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School, one of a select number of schools nationwide to receive that elite honor. Their vision is to "prepare students to be outstanding global citizens in an ever-changing technological world." Lincoln Magnet School has not only met this goal, but has exceeded it.

Lincoln Magnet School is the type of institution more schools should emulate. Students at the school have also consistently demonstrated high academic performance—outscored their peers at the state level in every category. For example, 95% of students in 2010 met the State of Illinois' benchmark in mathematics with 44% of students exceeding the benchmark. In reading, 96% of students achieved the reading benchmark and 33% exceeded it.

The staff and leadership of Lincoln Magnet School have also partnered with local agencies in order to offer numerous educational opportunities to their students. At a time when employers in my district lament the lack of skills in the workforce, I am proud to see schools such as Lincoln Magnet School utilize laptops, virtual lab experiences and other types of technology to better prepare their students for the technical demands of the future.

The one-to-one laptop environment present at Lincoln Magnet School offers students the ability to answer their own questions while also incorporating real-world experiences into the classroom. Virtual science laboratories make difficult concepts easier to understand. The prevalent use of different types of technology means a student never stops learning.

Once again, I congratulate the teachers, staff, students, parents and community members of Lincoln Magnet School for all of their hard work in achieving the National Blue Ribbon award.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF NANCY KEENAN

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Nancy Keenan of Perkasi, Pennsylvania. Born and raised in South-eastern Pennsylvania, Nancy was truly com-

mitted to the well-being of her friends and neighbors, particularly to the senior citizens of Bucks County.

A self-educated woman, Nancy became an integral part of her community, serving as member of the Perkasi Borough Council, a frequent columnist for her local paper, the Morning Call, the chairperson of the Bucks County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, and a member of the Southeast Regional Council of the Pennsylvania Council on Aging.

Of all the projects Nancy was a part of during her remarkable life, one of the dearest to her was the foundation of the new Pennridge Community Senior Center in Silverdale. While the task of raising funds to build this new center was no small undertaking, Nancy patiently and diligently persevered until the project was completed. Her advocacy for the senior citizens of Bucks County goes well beyond the construction of a single building, and this new center will stand as a testament to her hard work and dedication for generations to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY AND DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE NEW YORK STATE CONFERENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with great pride and as a life member to recognize the 75th Anniversary and Diamond Jubilee Celebration of our beloved NAACP New York State Conference.

On October 7 thru Oct. 9, 2011, The New York State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will host its 75th Anniversary Conference and Diamond Jubilee Celebration, at the Westin Times Square Hotel and Conference Center in New York City. The Celebration will honor the rich history of the NAACP and examine critical issues challenging all New Yorkers. Delegates and participants will enjoy interactive workshops on education, health, civic engagement, economic empowerment and criminal justice.

The NAACP New York State Conference has been a vital programmatic component of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for 75 of the 102-year history of the oldest, most effective and most respected civil rights organization in the Nation. The New York State Conference has played a pivotal role in moving the agenda for freedom and equality forward under the leadership of dynamic State Conference Presidents, each of whom addressed critical issues during their tenure.

Dr. James E. Allen, the first President, took on the challenge of expanding the number of branches all across the state. From 1936 to 1952, the number of branches grew from 15 to 45, providing local civil rights advocacy in every corner of the state on a wide range of issues. The succeeding Presidents have built on that solid foundation and added to the scope and innovative advocacy techniques. They were Mrs. Effie Gordon, Dr. Eugene T.

Reed, Judge William Booth, Donald Lee, Raphael Dubard and the current President, my sister, Dr. Hazel N. Dukes.

Through its seventy-five year history, the New York State Conference has been a leading force in driving the missions and goals of the Association. The first Prison Branch of NAACP was chartered in New York. The Youth and College Division grew as a vigorous power to be reckoned with, and continues to be outspoken and on the front line of advocacy today.

Under the leadership of Dr. Hazel Dukes and the first Executive Director David Bryant, Esq. the New York State Conference State opened its offices in lower Manhattan in 1978. Shortly before the historic Centennial Celebration of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 2009, the state conference relocated its office to a beautiful spacious Suite at 1065 Avenue of the Americas in Midtown Manhattan. The state-of-the-art office is run with an Administrative Assistant, support staffs and interns to facilitate activity throughout the state to the 56 adult units, Youth, and College Chapters from Harlem to Highland Falls, Brooklyn to Buffalo, Syracuse to Suffolk County, Albany to Amityville and all points in between.

New York State Conference Civil Rights Advocacy over the years has included historic demonstrations, marches and mobilizations. Like the memorable 160-mile march from New York City to Albany to underscore our civil rights issues, the Over-ground Railroad project to promote voter registration and voter participation throughout the State of New York, marches and demonstrations to protest police brutality and the murders of Michael Steward by Transit police and Eleanor Bumpers by Public Housing police. The New York State Conference held one of the largest demonstrations in Howard Beach to protest the racial murder of Michael Griffin and in Middletown, New York to protest the police murder of the son of NAACP branch President, Maude Bruce.

Reflecting on these important moments and milestones, President Hazel Dukes said, "The New York State Conference has been a vital component of the National NAACP for 75 of its 102-year history. We have played a pivotal role in moving the agenda for freedom and equality forward. The celebration of our 75th Anniversary gives the State Conference an opportunity to review past challenges, celebrate accomplishments and be emboldened by future possibilities." Members and guests of the NAACP from the tri-state area will participate in numerous events during this milestone weekend.

The Conference begins Friday, October 7 at noon with registration and the opening plenary at 2:30 p.m. At 7:30 p.m., the Rev. Dr. Gregory Smith, Senior Pastor and the Congregation of the historic Mother African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church will host an Ecumenical Service in Harlem featuring keynote speaker the Honorable Benjamin Todd Jealous, President and CEO of the National NAACP. The service will also highlight a performance by Vy Higginson's Gospel for Teens Choir, recently featured on CBS' 60 Minutes, by legendary News Correspondent Barbara Walters.

On Saturday, October 8 from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m., a number of interactive workshops and